(b) Under SJSRY, no targets are fixed by the Central Government. The matter pertaining to the targets under the scheme has been left to be decided by the State Governments in conformity with the guidelines of the scheme and result of beneficiary survey. This has been done to ensure adequate flexibility in the operation of the scheme.

SJSRY will continue during the Ninth Plan and its impact on urban poverty would depend on the annual budgetary allocation to be decided by the Planning Commission and its implementation by the States.

Fund for Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation to Punjab

440. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided by Government to Punjab during the last three years, for urban employment and poverty alleviation year-wise; and

(b) the procedure adopted by Government to ensure that the amount provided has properly been utilised?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY) was launched by the Government on all India basis with effect from 01.12.97 for the benefit of urban poor. Statement showing amounts provided as Central release during the last three years to Punjab under SJSRY is as under:—

(Rupees in lakhs)

Name of the State	Released during 1997-98	Released during 1998-99	Released during 1999-2000	Total Amount Released 1997—2000
Punjab	68.33	135.22	53.86	267.41

(b) Guidelines have been issued to all the States/UTs for the effective implementation of the Scheme. Government is monitoring the scheme through quarterly progressive reports and through regular review meetings at the level of Minister/Secretaries with the Secretaries of States/UTs.

Urban housing in Andhra Pradesh

441. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of URBAN

EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of houses to be constructed annually in urban areas;

(b) how finances will be arranged; and

(c) the programme of housing to be taken up in Andhra Pradesh with Central assistance?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) and (b) Housing is a State subject. However, Government of India has launched a programme for construction of additional 20 lakh houses every year. Out of this, 13 lakh houses will be constructed in the rural areas and 7 lakh houses will be constructed in the urban areas. The programme is to be implemented by the State Governments utilising their own resources and loans from various agencies including Housing & Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO). The NHB through the housing finance companies under its umbrella and the NCHF through the Apex State Cooperative Housing Federation are also mobilising resources for achieving these targets.

(c) There is no Central Sector Scheme for urban housing. However, Housing & Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO), a techno-financing Central PSU provides financial assistance to the State Govt. agencies for undertaking housing and related activities.

In Andhra Pradesh, cumulatively as on 31.01.2000, HUDCO has sanctioned 1887 schemes at a project cost of Rs. 2678.47 crore with HUDCO loan component of Rs. 1668.81 crore. This has facilitated construction of 1651882 dwelling units including 173484 upgraded units and development of 4866 plots.

Reduction in interest rate on Housing Loans

442. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to reduce interest rates on housing loans to individuals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are other concessions being given to promote housing activities?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) and (b) Housing